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BOOK NOTICES.

The Norwegian North Polar Expedition, 1893-1896. Scientific Results, edited by Fridtjof Nansen, Volume 1. Published by the Fridtjof Nansen Fund for the Advancement of Science. Christiania, Jacob Dybwad; London, New York, Bombay, Longmans, Green, and Co.; Leipzig, F. A. Brockhaus. 1900.

Dr. Nansen says in his preface :

In order to place the various Memoirs before the scientific world at the earliest possible date, they are printed as they are finished, without regard to the systematic sequence, and they will be published as soon as there is sufficient material to form a volume. Each Memoir will be paged separately, and will be given a number, running continuously from 1 through the whole series, by which it may easily be referred to.

This first volume contains five Memoirs: a description of the *Fram* by her builder, Colin Archer; the Jurassic Fauna of Cape Flora, Franz Josef Land, by J. F. Pompeckj, with a Geological Sketch of Cape Flora and its Neighbourhood by Fridtjof Nansen; Fossil Plants from Franz Josef Land by A. G. Nathorst; An Account of the Birds by Robert Collett and Fridtjof Nansen; and the Crustacea by G. O. Sars. In all, there are forty-six plates.

It is estimated that the work, which will be issued only in English, will form five or six quarto volumes, and will be finished in the course of about two years.

It is Dr. Nansen's intention to give, at the close, a complete summary of the scientific results.

As a specimen of printing the book deserves the highest praise, and the text is remarkably free from errors of the press.

Glacières or Freezing Caverns. By Edwin Swift Balch, A.B. (Harvard); F.R.G.S., Member of the Franklin Institute, of the Appalachian Mountain Club, etc. Philadelphia, Allen, Lane & Scott. 1900.

Mr. Balch first became acquainted with subterranean ice in September, 1877, while descending King's Ravine, on Mount Adams, in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Since that happy day he has visited ice-caves in various countries and has made notes of his reading on the subject, to the advantage of those who look into his handsome book.

The first hundred pages are devoted to what are called Experi-

ences in Glacières, well described and illustrated by cuts from photographs and drawings of sections.

Sixty pages are devoted to a discussion of the causes of subterranean ice, with a preliminary consideration of the terminology of the subject. Mr. Balch finds that, so far as he knows, the only correct, generic term for subterranean ice-formations is the French word *glacière*, and he goes on to say:

It might be well, therefore, if the French term *glacière* were adopted as a generic term for all underground ice-formations. As, however, there is little likelihood of this happening, the question arises as to the best English equivalent or equivalents.

The French word seems to be in the way of adoption. It is familiar to English scientific writers, and it is recognized by at least three authorities: Stormonth's Dictionary, the Century and the Standard.

The popular belief that the ice of caves is formed in summer and melts in winter is partly founded on the fact that the temperature of caves is colder in summer and warmer in winter than the outer air. It is to be remembered also that the *glacières* are rarely visited in the winter season. Prof. Thury, intending to visit one cave in mid-winter, was told that he would lose his time, for there would be no ice in the cave. He went by himself and found the *glacière* full of hard ice. His report staggered the peasants; but one of them at last spoke for all:

"It makes no difference; in genuine *glacières* there is no ice in winter."

The list of *glacières*, pp. 165-265, is made to include too many mere names, with the added remark: *No information*.

These and the notices of subsoil ice in the tundras of Alaska might have been omitted with advantage.

A bibliography and an index bring the work to a close.